

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE HUMAN SERVICES STANDING COMMITTEE
FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2001, 9:00 A.M.
ROOM 416, STATE CAPITOL BUILDING**

Members Present: Sen. John W. "Bill" Hickman, Chair
Sen. D. Edgar Allen
Sen. Gene Davis
Sen. Terry Spencer
Sen. Bill Wright

Members Excused: L. Steven Poulton

Staff Present: Mark D. Andrews, Research Analyst
Norda Shepard, Committee Secretary

Public Speakers Present: Sen. Curtis Buttars
Sen. Dan. Eastman
Rep. Trisha Beck
Becky Oakley, Chair, Board of DCFS
Catherine Dupont, Legislative Counsel
Abel Ortiz, Director, Special Projects, DCFS
Kathleen Sorenson

Visitor List on File

Chair Hickman called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Chair Hickman announced to those in attendance that S.B. 119, Child Welfare Records Amendments (*L. Hillyard*), the fourth item on the agenda, would not be heard today at the request of the sponsor.

1. S.B. 111 Conflict of Interest Investigations into Allegation of Child Abuse or Neglect (D.C. Buttars)

Sen. Buttars presented the bill and proposed amendments. Becky Oakley, Chair, Board of Child and Family Services, explained the need for the bill and the amendments.

MOTION: Sen. Wright moved to adopt the following proposed amendments to S.B. 111:

1. Page 2, Line 30: After "(b)" delete "The" and insert "(i) under the direction of the Board of Child and Family Services, the" after "division" delete

"may" and insert "shall"

2. Page 2, Line 32: After line 32 insert "(ii) The executive director of the department shall designate an entity within the department, other than the division, to monitor the contract for the investigators described in Subsection (b)(i)."

The motions passed unanimously with Sen. Spencer absent at the time of voting.

Abel Ortiz, Director, Special Projects, Division of Child and Family Services, answered questions concerning conflict of interest and spoke in favor of the bill. Kathleen Sorenson, an adoptive parent, spoke and remarked she fully supported the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Davis moved to pass S.B. 111 out favorably as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

2. **S.B. 125 Aging and Adult Services Amendments (D. Eastman)**

Sen. Eastman presented the bill and introduced Ron Stromberg, Associate Director, Department of Aging and Adult Services, who answered questions from the committee.

MOTION: Sen. Davis moved to pass S.B. 125 out favorably. The motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Eastman asked to place S.B. 125 on the Consent Calendar.

MOTION: Sen. Hickman moved to place S.B. 125 on the Consent Calendar. After further discussion with Sen. Eastman and the committee, Sen. Hickman withdrew his motion.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

MOTION: Sen. Davis moved to approve the minutes of 1-24-01. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **H.B. 31 Child Welfare Oversight Panel Amendments (T. Beck)**

Rep. Beck presented the bill and proposed amendments.

MOTION: Sen. Wright proposed to adopt the following amendments to H.B. 31:

1. Page 2, Line 55: After "Subcommittee" insert "the Executive Office, Criminal Justice Appropriations Subcommittee,"
2. Page 2, Line 58: After "system;" insert "(h) study actions the state can take to preserve, unify, and strengthen the child's family ties whenever possible in the child's best interest, including recognizing the constitutional rights and claims of parents whenever those family ties are severed or infringed."
3. Page 3, Line 59: Delete "(h)" and insert "(i)"
4. Page 3, Line 61: Delete "(i)" and insert "(j)"

The motion passed unanimously.

Catherine Dupont and Mark Andrews, Legislative Research and General Counsel, answered questions regarding the scope of the Oversight Panel.

MOTION: Sen. Spencer moved to pass H.B. 31 out favorably as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Sen. Allen moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Hickman adjourned the meeting 9:42 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Norda Shepard, Secretary

Sen. John W. "Bill" Hickman
Committee Chair